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ACTION NEA-09

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USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0887

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: SUPPORT PACKAGE FOR USLOK

REF: A. KUWAIT 0824 DTG 200750ZFEB75

B. STATE 40672 DTG 222158ZFEB75

SUMMARY: DURING PERIOD 19-22 FEB 75, EUCOM TEAM UNDER COL CANHAM PRESENTED AND MADE REVISIONS TO EUCOM PROPOSED SUPPORT PACKAGE FOR USLOK (WHEN ESTABLISHED) AND RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE CONCERNING THE MANNER IN WHICH PACKAGE MIGHT BE PRESENTED/NEGOTIATED WITH THE GOK. EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS ARE PROVIDED AND SPECIFIC REQUESTS MADE. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING VISIT TO KUWAIT 19-22 FEB, COL CANHAM PRESENTED AND REVISED EUCOM PROPOSED 17 MAN SUPPORT PACKAGE FOR 9 MAN USLOK CAPABLE OF MANAGING VARIOUS TAFT'S, ETC., EXPECTED TO BE SENT KUWAIT IN THE FUTURE. EMBASSY BELIEVES WORK OF EUCOM IN FORMULATING SUPPORT PACKAGE IS A CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT WHICH SHOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE IN NEAR FUTURE AS COMPLEX MATTER OF NEGOTIATING WITH GOK EVOLVES.

2. THE MATTER OF TIMING AND THE METHOD OF APPROACH TO THE GOK RE SUPPORT PACKAGE IS IMPORTANT. WE BELIEVE A
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CAREFUL, STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH IS REQUIRED AS IT IS

DECIDED WHAT WE ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE AND WHAT THE GOK IS WILLING TO ACCEPT. PRESENTATION OF 17-MAN PACKAGE ALL AT ONE TIME UNDOUBTEDLY IS MOST CONVENIENT APPROACH, HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS OBVIOUS PACKAGE WILL SUPPORT A USLOK OF CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN 9 MEN, SUCH ACTION WOULD INVITE INFERENCE US PREPARED TO PROVIDE CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN 9 PERSONNEL--SUCH INFERENCE SHOULD BE AVOIDED AT THIS TIME.

3. WE FIRST NEED A FRANK DISCUSSION OF MATTER WITH THE GOK FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS RE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. (REF B HAS PROVIDED AUTHORITY AND GUIDANCE RE LATTER). UNTIL THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE COMPLETED, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT RE WHAT GOK WILL ACCEPT.

4. I THINK, EVENTUALLY, THE GOK WILL ACCEPT THE EQUIVALENT OF THE ENTIRE PACKAGE, PERHAPS PIECEMEAL. HOWEVER, THE GOK TRACK RECORD IN REQUESTING CHANGES, ETC. IN LETTERS OF OFFER IS SUCH THAT I CANNOT REQUEST THE EXPENDITURE OF THE VALUABLE MANHOURS REQUIRED TO PREPARE THEM AT THIS TIME. I DO APPRECIATE, OF COURSE, THE STUDY OF SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE BY USCINCEUR. IT IS A VALUABLE SOURCE DOCUMENT ON WHICH TO DRAW AS THE PIECES FALL INTO PLACE.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING GENERAL OBSERVATIONS, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED REFTEL (A).

A. LEASING THREE HOUSES: THIS MAY OR MAY NOT BE A FEASIBLE APPROACH. KUWAIT, LIKE THE US, HAS ZONING LAWS. IN ADDITION, USE OF A HOUSE AS AN OFFICE BUILDING MAY BE LOCALLY OFFENSIVE, REGARDLESS OF ZONING. AVAILABILITY IS ALSO PROBLEM. HOUSES ARE IN GREAT DEMAND AND SHORT SUPPLY. WHILE COL CANHAM VIEWED ONE WHICH WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR A MAAG CHIEF'S RESIDENCE OR HEADQUARTERS AND COULD HAVE BEEN LEASED WHILE HE WAS IN KUWAIT, THE QUESTION OF ZONING AND LOCAL ACCEPTABILITY WERE NOT ADDRESSED. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE DESIRES, ETC. OF THE GOK. I RECOMMEND THIS MATTER BE LEFT TO THE PEOPLE ON THE SCENE WHO CAN DO THE

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BEST THAT CAN BE DONE WITH RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE.

B. FILL JTD WITH TDY PERSONNEL: THE DOD APPROVED JTD (WHICH WAS NOT RECEIVED BY AMEMB KUWAIT UNTIL 11FEB75) APPARENTLY WAS DEVELOPED BEFORE THE GOK SELECTED ITS MAJOR WEAPONS SYSTEMS. I AM NOT CERTAIN USG IS WILLING TO TAKE ON MAJOR ADVISORY ROLES NOT ASSOCIATED IN AT LEAST LARGE PART WITH US EQUIPMENT. (HAVE WE EVER DONE THIS BEFORE?) ALSO, I AM NOT SURE GOK WILL ACCEPT ALL

PROFERRED EXPERTISE (US ADVISORS ON FRENCH AIRCRAFT MAY PRESENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS). I BELIEVE STAFFING MUST BE WORK OUT, STEP BY STEP, AS THE PICTURE CLARIFIES. AS A MODUS VIVENDI, I RECOMMEND PERSONNEL ASSIGNED AT THIS TIME BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE WITH US EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES BEING PROCURED BY THE GOK. THIS APPROACH WILL REATIN THE GREATEST FLEXIBILITY FOR THE USG AND AVOID INFERENCES OF COMMITMENTS TO UNDERTAKE MATTERS OF GREATER SCOPE. THE MEBASSY WILL PREPARE REVISED AND CONSOLIDATED RECOMMENDATIONS RE PERSONNEL EMBODYING THIS PRINCIPLE. I RECOMMEND AGAIN, AS I DID IN REFTTEL (C), THAT WHENEVER POSSIBLE, PERSONNEL BE SELECTED FOR PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT, BUT ORDERED TO KUWAIT INITIALLY ON INDEFINITE TDY. THEY SUBSEQUENTLY CAN BE CONVERTED TO PCS WHEN QUARTERS AND OTHER SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE. THIS WILL REDUCE OVERALL COSTS AND INEFFICIENCIES GENERATED BY RAPID PERSONNEL TURNOVER AND LACK OF CONTINUITY.

C. ASSIGNMENT OF SUPPORT PERSONEL: (17) TDY: I ASSUME ARRIVAL THESE PERSONNEL WOULD BE TIMED TO AVAILABILITY OF OFFICE SPACE, TRANSPORTATION, ETC. THESE PERSONNEL ALOS SHOULD BE SELECTED FOR PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT AND INITIALLY ORDERED TO KUWAIT IN TDY STATUS AS RECOMMENDED IN PARA B ABOVE.

ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT REVIEW USCINCEUR SUPPORT PACKAGE WITH DOD AND USCINCEUR REPRESENTATIVES, AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE. PACKAGE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO BE CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY COL CANHAM WEEK OF 24 FEB.
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